

January 25, 1958

Dr. Dean Cowie  
Dept. Terrestrial Magnetism  
Carnegie Institution  
Washington 15, D.C.

Dear Dean:

Further to our conversation yesterday:

I would be most eager to have the opportunity to work out our ideas in more detail on the technical problems of extra-terrestrial microbiology, with a view to a possible note for publication in Science or elsewhere. If you could manage to revisit Madison for a few days or a week sometime in February, this would be most convenient, and I look forward to a fruitful collaboration. I am afraid that I will be very much more preoccupied after about March 1, especially as I am counting on the arrival of Dr. Cavalli from Milan for a few months of concentrated laboratory work.

Several copies of a memorandum are enclosed for your interest, and for further distribution at your own discretion. It is not a very well polished note, and it may not be so readily understood by anyone not already conversant with the scientific issue. I am also distributing it to several of the people you suggested.

One of the articles by Daniel C. Pease, which I had mentioned, is "Hydrostatic pressure effects upon the spindle figure and chromosome movement", Jour. Morphology, 69:405-434. I imagine the Johnson et al. opus (Kinetic Basis of Molecular Biology) will have more references to that sort of thing (and cf. McElroy & Co. on mutation); or you could contact Pease at UCLA (Dept. Anatomy--Med. School). If you have in mind building a cell suitable for continuous observation, he should be very helpful to you.

In turn, if you could get hold of a copy of Britten's Yrbk. report, for me, I'd be much obliged. I'd have to hike over to the other end of campus to find it.

If you get to compile a tangible list of homework, I'll see about exchanging the same with you.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Professor of Genetics &  
Chairman, Dept. Medical Genetics